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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

the Patent Application of)

Xavier MICHEL)

Application No.: 09/933,822)

Group Art Unit: 2621)

Filed: August 22, 2001)

Examiner: To Be Assigned)

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,)
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND)
STORAGE MEDIUM)PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to an initial examination of the above-identified application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.153(b), please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A linear reduction unit 16 reduces the resolution of the original image (that is, increases the resolution by factor of $z < 1$).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

First, in step S81, if a pixel (X, Y) satisfies the condition $1 < X < 2 \times \text{In_width} - 3$ and $1 < Y < 2 \times \text{In_height} - 3$, a set of five pixels including the pixel (X, Y) at the center thereof is extracted from the Xth column of the H buffer 31. Then,